(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar output for the period 1999-2000 covered 174 lakh tons against 160 lakh tones last years;

(b) whether this will increase the carry out stock from 70 lakh tons last year to 95 lakh tons this year;

(c) whether it is being reported that because of the glut, units are being closed down and others reported sick, causing great suffering to the people in the industry and the farmers; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The sugar production during the current 1999-2000 season (October-September) is expected to be of the order of 180 lakh tonnes as against last seasons production of 155.20 takh tonnes. Taking into account the last year's carry over stocks of 67.23 lakh tonnes, the total availability of sugar works out to 247.23 lakh tonnes during the current season against the estimated consumption of 150.84 lakh tonnes. As such, stocks at the end of the season i.e. on 30th September, 2000 is expected to be of the order of 96.39 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) So far no sugar mill has reported closure or indicated sickness due to higher production/stocks. The Government have taken steps such as reduction in levy obligation from 40% to 30% of production, increased to custom duty to 60% together with existing counter-vailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne to restrict the inflow of imported sugar, pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the open market through judicious release of freesale sugar quotas, allowed advance release of freesale sugar to the needy factories, decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar etc. in order to improve the viability of the sugar mills.

Policy Decision Regarding Export of Surplus Wheat

1294. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are burdened with huge wheat stock in the country costing the nation over Rs. 3000 crores as storage expenses generating

a thought of exporting the surplus wheat or bartering wheat with edible oils or other essential items;

(b) whether Government have taken any policy decision with regard to export at surpious wheat and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plan to increase PDS quota of wheat while reducing the issue price of the commodity substantially;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir, as on 30.06.2000, the following stocks of wheat were available in the Central Pool which entail an expenditure of about Rs. 3000 crores as carrying cost if these are not disposed of during the period of one year.

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Stock as on 30.06.2000

Commodity	With FCI	State Agencies	Total	Buffer norms as on 1st July, 2000	Excess
Wheat	113.44	164.13	277.57	143.00	134.57

(b) Yes Sir, Government has taken a decision to explore the possibilities of commodity loan/barter trade of wheat with SAARC countries or other countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange, and also planning to export wheat on Government to Government account.

(c) to (e) Government has already increased the foodgrains allocation w.e.f. 1-4-2000 in favout of State/U.T. Governments. The comparision between the total allocation of foodgrains during March, 2000 and April 2000 is given below:—

(Figs. in lakh MTs)

Scheme	March, 2000			April, 2000		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
Apl	4.91	3.28	8.19	5.37	3.46	8.83
BPL	3.20	2.83	6.03	6.56	5.29	11.85
Additional	2.35	2.34	4.69	0.11	0.01	0.12
Total	10.46	8.45	18.91	12.04	8.76	20.80

The Central Issue price of wheat and rice has also been reduced from 15th July, 2000 as follows:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

	Commodity	BPL	APL
1.	Wheat	415	830
2.	Rice		
	(i) Common	565	-
	(ii) Grade"A"	565	1130

Sugar Export

1295. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of sugar during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to export/release more quota of Sugar for export this year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will lead to increase in the prices of sugar in the country as a result thereof; if, the facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) the details of the export of sugar during the last three financial years are given below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs. crores)
1.	1997-98	173282	244.44
2.	1998-99 (*)	12735	17.36
3.	1999-2000(*)	7043 (P)	10.77 (P)

Source: DGCIS-Calcutta, Ministry of Commerce.

(*) As per March, 2000 Publication of DGCIS -Calcutta.

(b) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of domestically produced sugar. These exports can be carried out by the sugar mills either directly or through the exporters.

(c) The current sugar season 1999-2000 started with a carryover stock of 67.23 lakh tonnes of sugar. The production of sugar during the current season is likely to be about 180 lakh tonnes. Thus, the total availability of sugar in the country would be to the tune of 247.23 lakh tonnes as against the estimated consumption of 150.84 lakh tonnes of the season.